



# SHARP News

## SHARP Peer Educator On Board

The NEHC SHARP staff can provide an active duty Sailor **Peer Educator** to co-facilitate sexual health education sessions with local SHARP Instructors in the Tidewater Virginia area. Our Peer Educator has been trained in the SHARP *Fundamentals of HIV-STD Prevention Counseling Course*, the American Red Cross *HIV Instructor Course*, and the U.S. Army *STD prevention* course, among others.

### Why Use Peer Educators?

The primary purpose of utilizing Peer Educators, that is, a sailor teaching fellow sailors, is to have a greater influence on those in the audience who place themselves at risk to adopt less risky sexual practices. Participants may be more likely to hear and personalize prevention messages if they believe the messenger is similar to them and faces the same concerns and pressures. Facilitated group discussions offer the opportunity for the Peer Educator to build consensus on appropriate personal conduct, improve understanding on which choices are safer, and convey to everyone the benefits of incorporating safe behavior choices into their lifestyles if they are placing themselves at risk.

SHARP can also provide **HIV positive active duty Sailors** who are willing to discuss their HIV infection as part of your sexual health presentations, again, in the Tidewater Virginia area.

Our Peer Educator and HIV positive Sailors may be available to travel to your locale (outside Tidewater Virginia) if you can provide travel funding.

For more information, contact PN2 Markis Derr, SHARP Peer Educator, at (757) 462-5586 (DSN 253), or <mailto:derrm@nehc.med.navy.mil>.

Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP)

Navy Environmental Health Center, Health Promotion, 2510 Walner Ave, Norfolk VA 23513-2617  
(757) 462-5566 (DSN 253) fax: DSN 444-1345 <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp>